

## Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 114888  
ORIGIN LAB-04

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC  
TO AMEMBASSY MOSCOW IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 114888

FOL RPT LONDON 08130 ACTION SECSTATE INFO BONN PARIS GENEVA  
EC BRUSSELS ROME COPENHAGEN THE HAGUE LUXEMBOURG STOCKHOLM  
OSLO DUBLIN 17 MAY 77 QUOTE

C O N F I D E N T I A L LONDON 08130

E.O. 11652: XGDS-1  
TAGS: ELAB, ILO, UK  
SUBJECT: ILO - 63RD INTERNATIONAL LABOR CONFERENCE:  
CONVERSATION WITH TUC GENERAL SECRETARY

REF: LONDON 8088

1. EMBASSY E/C MIN ACCOMPANIED BY LABOR ATTACHE MET  
WITH LEN MURRAY, TUC GENERAL SECRETARY, ON MAY 17 IN  
THE SECOND IN A SERIES OF SCHEDULED VISITS CONCERNING  
THE CRISIS WITHIN THE INTERNATIONAL LABOR ORGANIZATION.

2. E/C MIN REVIEWED THE CIRCUMSTANCES LEADING TO THE  
US LETTER OF INTENT TO WITHDRAW FROM THE ILO AND  
ENUMERATED SOME OF THE PARTICULAR CONCERNS OF THE USG  
INCLUDING THE VIOLATION OF DUE PROCESS, THE EXISTENCE  
OF A DOUBLE STANDARD ON HUMAN AND TRADE UNION RIGHTS,  
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THE POLITICIZATION OF THE ILO' AND THE EROSION OF THE  
TRIPARTITE STRUCTURE. HE EMPHASIZED THE VITAL IMPOR-  
TANCE WHICH THE 63RD CONFERENCE PLAYS IN THE ULTIMATE  
CONSIDERATION OF US MEMBERSHIP IN THE ILO AND SOUGHT  
SUPPORT FROM THE TUC ON CRITICAL ISSUES BEFORE THE  
CONFERENCE.

3. MURRAY SAID HE WAS PLEASED TO HAVE THE DISCUSSION AND WHILE BROADLY FAMILIAR WITH THE ISSUES RAISED, IT WAS CYRIL PLANT, UK WORKER DELEGATE -- NOW RECUPERATING FROM A HEART ATTACK -- WHO HANDLES THE DETAILS. HE STRESSED THAT THE TUC SHARES THE GENERAL POSITION ELABORATED BY THE USG. INCLUDING DESIRE TO RESOLVE THE PROBLEM OF POLITICAL RESOLUTIONS, TO ENSURE DUE PROCESS, TO DISPOSE OF THE ISRAELI ISSUE, AND TO PROTECT THE TRIPARTITE STRUCTURE, ABOUT WHICH THE TUC FEELS VERY DEEPLY. THEY ALSO SUPPORT JOE MORRIS AS CHAIRMAN OF THE CONFERENCE. MURRAY THOUGHT THAT THE LETTER OF INTENT QUITE LIKELY "CONCENTRATED THE MINDS OF MANY PEOPLE" AND RESULTED IN PROGRESS IN THESE AREAS.

4. HE SAID "YOU WILL NOTE FROM WHAT CYRIL PLANT HAS BEEN DOING AT THE ILO THAT WE WON'T FIND IT DIFFICULT TO GO ALONG GENERALLY ALONG THE LINES, IF NOT EVERY DOT AND COMMA, WHICH YOU HAVE INDICATED -- PARTLY TO SEE THE ILO SURVIVE, FOR WE BELIEVE IT IS A VERY USEFUL INSTITUTION, PARTICULARLY FOR THE DEVELOPING COUNTRIES' TRADE UNION MOVEMENTS, AND BECAUSE IT DOES PROVIDE A TRIPARTITE STRUCTURE." MURRAY SAID HE IS VERY HOPEFUL THAT THERE WILL BE NO "MAJOR IMPEDIMENT" EMERGING FROM THE 63RD CONFERENCE WHICH WOULD LEAD TO THE US WITHDRAWAL FROM THE ILO. HE SAID THAT FROM WHAT HE IS TOLD, MOREOVER, "THERE IS NO PROPENSITY ON THE PART OF THE EASTERN EUROPEANS TO USE THE CURRENT CRISIS AS A DMEANS OF CAPTURING THE ORGANIZATION" AFTER THE US LEFT, CONFIDENTIAL

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FOR "THIS WOULD BE A PYRRHIC VICTORY."

5. THE TUC LEADER SAID HIS ORGANIZATION'S AIM IS A) "TO KEEP THE ILO ALIVE," B) "TO KEEP IT IN A FORM IN WHICH IT CAN DO THE JOB, ALTHOUGH THIS DOES NOT IMPLY NO CHANGES IN THE COMPOSITION AND CONSTITUTION OVER A PERIOD OF TIME." AND C) "TO KEEP WORKING CLOSELY WITH OUR FRIENDS IN THE AFL-CIO." HE ADDED: "THERE IS NO SINGLE TEST BUT EACH IS A POWERFUL CONSIDERATION. WE WOULD BE VERY UNHAPPY, INDEED' IF THE US WERE TO DECIDE TO WITHDRAW FROM THE ILO, OR IF THE AFL-CIO REMAINED HOSTILE. WE WOULD THEN FACE A REAL DILEMMA. SHOULD WE STAY IN AND FIGHT WITHIN A WEAK, INEFFECTIVE ORGANIZATION? OUR NORMAL TENDENCY IS TO OPERATE WITHIN."

6. COMMENT: IT WOULD APPEAR THAT THE TUC, LIKE THE UK EMPLOYERS DELEGATE J. COATES (REFTEL). ARE QUITE ANXIOUS TO PREVENT THE DEPARTURE OF THE UNITED STATES

FROM THE ILO. HOWEVER. BOTH COATES AND MURRAY, WHILE TRYING TO AVOID SUCH AN EVENTUALITY, ALSO INDICATE THAT RESERVATIONS ABOUT US APPROACHES ON SPECIFIC ISSUES REMAIN. THIS IS REFLECTED, IN PART, BY COATES' QUERY ABOUT THE POSSIBILITY OF A "COMPROMISE" ON THE ISRAELI ISSUE. FOR HIS PART, MURRAY ALMOST IN A "THROW-AWAY" PHRASE REFERRED TO THE NEED FOR CHANGES IN THE ILO "COMPOSITION AND CONSTITUTION OVER A PERIOD OF TIME." THIS SUGGESTS THAT SOME OF THE VERY THORNY PROBLEMS WHICH MAY BE SET ASIDE IN GENEVA DURING THE CONFERENCE WILL NOT READILY GO AWAY AFTER NOVEMBER 1977.

SPIERS

UNQUOTE CHRISTOPHER

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## Message Attributes

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